GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:667
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
COMMON COMMUNICATIONS CONVERGENCE REGULATOR
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the major recommendations of the Sub-Group ongoing digital to regulate all issues related to Communications and Broadcast etc.;

(b) whether multiple Departments and Ministries are involved in dealing with radio frequency requirements, spectrum planning and allotment;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up a Common Communications Convergence Regulator to coordinate and regulate the radio frequency and spectrum requirements of different stakeholders and enact a comprehensive law on issues related to different communication sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) The major recommendations of the Sub-Group ongoing digital cover broadcasting and non broadcasting issues.The major recommendations include, among others, roadmap for migration from analogue to digital Broadcasting, commencement of indigenous production of digital Set Top Boxes (STBs) including digital receivers, identification of spectrum requirements for broadcasting and other services and encouraging fast spread of Broadband Wireless connectivity, etc.The Sub-Group had also recommended a common communications convergence regulator with separate bureaus under it to deal with content and carriage.

(b) No, Sir.WPC (Wireless Planning and Coordination) Wing of Department of Telecommunications is the nodal agency for spectrum management within the country for all radio communication services including Broadcasting services. The spectrum requirements of other Departments and Ministries for various services are examined and appropriate spectrum is allotted by WPC Wing keeping in view national policies and international radio regulatory procedures.

(c) &(d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.